

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

General University of Maine Publications

University of Maine Publications

1-12-2016

Use of Animals in a Course: What You Need to Know

Office of Research Compliance, University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Office of Research Compliance, University of Maine, "Use of Animals in a Course: What You Need to Know" (2016). *General University of Maine Publications*. 2253.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications/2253

This Policy is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

USE OF ANIMALS IN A COURSE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Two government agencies regulate the use of animals. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) enforces the Animal Welfare Act. The Animal Welfare Act protects dogs, cats, nonhuman primates, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, and other warm-blooded animals used for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes. The second agency involved in regulating animal use is the Department of Health and Human Services, which is the home of the Public Health Service (PHS). Institutions that accept any PHS agency research funding must agree to follow PHS policy for animal research. The University of Maine does receive money from PHS. PHS policy covers all vertebrate species used for research, teaching, and testing.

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) is responsible for monitoring institutional compliance with the PHS policy and guidelines.

OLAW relies on two documents for judging compliance:

1. [PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#)
2. [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#)

By law, the University of Maine has a committee that must review all aspects of the animal care and use program. This committee is the [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee \(IACUC\)](#). The IACUC is responsible for making sure that all federal laws, regulations and policies are followed when investigators perform animal research.

The IACUC has many responsibilities, including:

1. Reviewing and approving live vertebrate animal use in experiments and teaching courses
2. Monitoring the animal care and use program by conducting semiannual reviews of the program and inspections of the animal facilities.

The University of Maine's IACUC reviewed and approved the use of animals in this course and the facilities in which the animals are housed.

Animals are approved for use in courses only after considering questions such as:

- What is the experimental design or teaching procedure for use of live vertebrates in the study or class?
- Is the species of animal appropriate for the teaching goals?
- Are there good alternatives to using animals? Alternatives include replacing animals with non-animal techniques, reducing the number of animals used, and refining procedures so as to cause minimum discomfort to animals.

It is important for students to carefully follow the procedures given by their instructor since the IACUC reviewed those procedures to assure minimum discomfort to the animals. It is also important that students listen to and carefully follow instructions for handling animals to avoid injury to the animals or themselves.

Animal Concerns:

If you observe or learn of activities involving animal care and use at the University of Maine that you believe are inappropriate (inhumane treatment, neglect, unapproved procedures, etc.), you are encouraged to report such activities. You may make your complaint anonymously if you choose. The University of Maine's IACUC is required by federal regulations to investigate all such reports in a confidential manner. No member of the University (student or employee) is subject to any reprisal for reporting any suspected violations.

For more information on how to report an animal concern please refer to the University of Maine [IACUC Animal Welfare Reporting webpage](#).

Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. National Institutes of Health, Office for Protection from Research Risks, March 1996.

[AALAS Learning Library](#)

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition 8th Edition. National Academies Press, 2011.